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WHITE RIVER
PARTNERSHIP

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CURRENTS

working together for the health of the white river watershed

mission

The White River Partnership (WRP) brings together people and local communities to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed.

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WRP Celebrates 15 Years

About the WRP

In 1996, a group of citizens, organizations, and agencies founded the White River Partnership (WRP) to address community concerns about the White River, including riverbank erosion, water quality, declining fish populations, and threats to public access. Working closely with landowners, towns, schools, and businesses, the WRP implements on-the-ground programs designed to understand the health of the river, to protect and improve the river, and to raise awareness about the river-related issues that affect us all.

Working Together to Improve the White River

Over the past 15 years, the WRP has partnered with more than 100 landowners to complete over 20 miles of bank stabilization, habitat improvement, and riparian buffer restoration projects. In addition, the WRP has recruited more than 500 annual volunteers to help implement projects, including planting trees, monitoring water quality, and cleaning up the river. By raising awareness about watershed issues, mobilizing community volunteers, and facilitating local stewardship, the WRP is bringing people and local communities together to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed.

In recognition of our community-based approach to resolving watershed problems, the WRP has received a number of awards. In 2000, the WRP was one of 12 groups nationally selected to receive a USDA Forest Service *Community Based Watershed Restoration Partnership Grant*. In 2003, we received the *Excellence in Riparian Management Award* from the USDA Forest Service and the *Vermont Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence & Pollution Prevention*. In 2007, we were selected as the Volunteer Group Recipient of the *Vermont Tree Steward Award*. And in 2008, we received the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region *Honor Award for Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries*.

Jump In!

After 15 years, the WRP is still going strong thanks to the involvement and support of our partners, volunteers, members, and donors — see page 3 for more details about our recent work. We invite YOU to help us ensure that the White River watershed is a healthy place to live, work, and play in 2011:

- Get involved in our work this spring and summer (see page 2);
- Become a member (see page 4); and
- Plan to join us at our Annual Meeting this fall to celebrate our 15th year of good work!

Calendar

Follow the WRP on
Facebook and Twitter!

Upcoming Events:

June 8 – September 28: Water Quality Monitoring. The WRP is coordinating the 11th year of our volunteer-based program to monitor bacteria, conductivity, temperature, and water clarity at 2 dozen sites around the watershed. Volunteers are needed to collect and/or transport samples and to share results with the community. For more information: info@whiteriverpartnership.org.

June 12: House Party Fundraiser, 2–6pm, 2238 River Road in Sharon. You are invited to Board Member Shay Berry's house for a party on the banks of the White River! Enjoy finger food and drinks, meet other community members who love the White River, learn more about WRP projects and volunteer opportunities, and make a donation to support a good cause! Cover charge: \$20/person or \$35/couple. To RSVP: info@whiteriverpartnership.org.

Year-round: Volunteer Events List Serv. Join our Events List Serv and receive volunteer opportunity notices via email. Upcoming summer and fall events will include a rusty crayfish monitoring workshop, a trail building day at the Pinch Rock public access site in Royalton, and river cleanups around the watershed. To join: info@whiteriverpartnership.org.

Partner Updates:

Over the past seven months, the WRP has worked with **The Dartmouth Institute** to survey watershed towns about their use of our water quality monitoring data and to modify our 2011 monitoring program to improve community understanding of water quality.

The WRP's Landscape Auction project will be featured in a report from **Ecoagriculture Partners** as one of three "model" watershed services projects nation-wide.

The WRP's Class 4 Town Road Project was featured in the **Vermont Water Quality Division's** Winter 2011 newsletter, "Out of the Blue." The project has been so successful that it is being duplicated in other watersheds throughout the state.



WRP volunteer Mike McDonnell paddled from the top of the First Branch, one of 5 major tributaries to the White River (along Route 110), to the confluence of the White and Connecticut Rivers in White River Junction during spring runoff.

Thank you!

We would like to thank the Following donors for their generous support of our 2010 Landscape Auction (see more details on page 3):

\$1,000 and up

Greater Upper Valley Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
Green Mountain National Forest
Greg & Mary Russ
Hanover Outdoors
NRCS Conservation Innovation
Grant
Orvis
Vermont Law School

\$500–\$999

Abby Armstrong
Becky Hooper
Chelsea Green Publishing
June Sidman
Kay Jorgensen
Stephan & Linn Perkins Syz

\$250–\$499

Betty & Don Munro
Jon & Judi Bouton
Ron & Betsy Rhodes

\$100–\$249

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South Royalton Market
Vermont Technical College
White River Golf Club

Project Updates

Check out what WRP has been doing!



River Cleanups

The WRP coordinates **river cleanups at dozens of public access sites** each year, culminating in a “Source to Sea” event co-hosted by the Connecticut River Watershed Council each fall. In 2010, the WRP helped recruit and organize 90 volunteers — including the Randolph Rotary Club volunteers featured in the picture above — to cleanup 3,000 pounds of trash from the river at over 20 sites in Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, and Stockbridge.



Students and Volunteers Plant Trees

The WRP’s **2011 Trees for Streams Program** started in April, with 22 volunteers — including those pictured here at Hurricane Flats Farm — harvesting over 2,000 willow stakes at 2 sites in Rochester and Royalton. These 12-18” sections of native shrub willows will regenerate if pounded into moist riverbanks. 375 student and community volunteers planted the willow stakes, along with over 1,000 bare- and balled-root trees and shrubs, at 6 sites in Brookfield, Royalton, Sharon, and Stockbridge this spring to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.



Auction Raises \$ For Conservation

On August 14, 2010 the WRP hosted the USA’s first-ever **Landscape Auction** to raise private capital for on-the-ground conservation projects and to connect people to the White River watershed landscape. Over 150 people attended the live event — pictured here on the lawn at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center — where auctioneer Rusty DeWees helped us raise \$20,000 in bids for over 50 conservation projects, including improving livestock watering systems, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, restoring riparian buffers, conserving public access to the river, and maintaining the working landscape.

Sami Izzo Award



The WRP celebrated another year of good work at our 2010 Annual Meeting, sharing good food and music and honoring Kathy and Peter Leonard — pictured here with WRP Director, Mary Russ — with the “Sami Izzo Award.” The 2010

award recognized Kathy and Peter’s contributions to the WRP’s water quality monitoring program, Board of Directors, fundraising efforts, administrative work, and more over the course of 10 years. **Thank you, Kathy & Peter, and congratulations!**



Protecting River Corridors

The WRP recently completed a two-part project at Fat Rooster Farm in Royalton in partnership with the VT River Conservancy (VRC), Upper CT River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and Hanover Outdoors. Owners Kyle Jones & Jenn Megyesi sold their development and channel management rights within a defined “river corridor” through a permanent easement held by VRC. Agricultural use is allowed inside the easement area, except within a 50-foot buffer that floats with the river — **pictured here being planted by 34 volunteers on Saturday, April 30**. The goal of the combined project is to allow the river to stabilize naturally, while improving water quality and habitat.



Support the WRP!

There are many ways you can support our efforts to improve the long-term health of the White River and its watershed. We welcome membership contributions, volunteer time, and cash donations.

Become a Member/Volunteer:

___ **Yes, I would like to join/renew my membership with the WRP.**

\$30: Individual \$40: Family \$50: Business

Sweat Equity: 2 hours volunteering equals a 1-year membership!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Yes, I want to receive email updates about volunteer opportunities.

Email address: _____

Make a donation:

___ **Yes, I want to make a cash donation (enter amount below).**

Membership dues: _____ Cash donation: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to "White River Partnership" and mail to PO Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068.

Felt-Soled Waders Banned in Vermont

As of April 1, 2011, Vermont has banned the use of felt-soled waders and boots in Vermont waters to help curb the spread of aquatic invasive species — like didymo. Didymo, invasive algae also known as "rock snot," was found in the White River in July 2007, and has formed extensive 'blooms' on the bottom of the river's bed in Stockbridge and Bethel during the summer months. These blooms can disrupt the aquatic food chain by smothering aquatic insects, native algae, and other organisms.

The WRP is working with its partners to raise awareness about both didymo and the ban on felt-soled waders — in addition to maintaining a didymo information page on our website, WRP volunteers are helping distribute an informational brochure to fishing license agents and post informational signs at public access sites. ●●

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